

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A system for multimedia on demand, the system comprising:
 - 2 a mass storage device, the mass storage device adapted to receive and store a
 - 3 multimedia content item;
 - 4 a processor, the processor coupled to the mass storage device; and
 - 5 a memory, the memory coupled to the processor, the memory storing a multimedia-
 - 6 on-demand data table and multimedia-on-demand instructions, the multimedia-on-demand
 - 7 data table including
 - 8 a multimedia content identifier field to store a multimedia content identifier,
 - 9 the multimedia content identifier to correspond to a multimedia content item stored
 - 10 on the mass storage device, and
 - 11 a multimedia content usage indicator field to store a multimedia content usage
 - 12 indicator, the multimedia content usage indicator associated with the multimedia
 - 13 content item stored on the mass storage device,
 - 14 the multimedia-on-demand instructions to be executed by the processor, the
 - 15 multimedia-on-demand instructions including instructions to
 - 16 automatically receive the multimedia content item, and
 - 17 send a multimedia-on-demand usage message, the multimedia-on-demand
 - 18 usage message based at least in part on the multimedia content usage indicator.

1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia-on-demand instructions include
2 instructions to
3 receive the multimedia content item at a transmission rate that is less than a real
4 time transmission rate; and
5 write the multimedia content item to the mass storage device.

1 3. The system of claim 1, wherein the instructions to receive the multimedia content
2 at a transmission rate that is less than a real time transmission rate includes instructions to
3 automatically receive the multimedia content at a transmission rate that is less than a real
4 time transmission rate.

1 4. The system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia content usage indicator is based at
2 least in part on whether the multimedia content item associated with the multimedia
3 content usage indicator was read from the mass storage device and sent to an information
4 appliance for playback of multimedia content item.

1 5. The system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia content usage indicator is adapted
2 to indicate whether the multimedia content item was at least in part sent to an information
3 appliance for playback.

1 6. The system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia content usage indicator is based at
2 least in part on whether the multimedia content item associated with the multimedia
3 content usage indicator was read from the mass storage device and sent to an information
4 appliance for non-volatile recording of the multimedia content item.

1 7. The system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia content usage indicator is adapted
2 to indicate whether the multimedia content item was at least in part sent to an information
3 appliance for recording to a non-volatile data storage medium.

1 8. The system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia-on-demand usage message includes
2 data corresponding to the multimedia content identifier and the multimedia content usage
3 indicator.

1 9. The system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia-on-demand usage message includes
2 the multimedia content identifier and the multimedia content usage indicator.

1 10. The system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia-on-demand usage message includes
2 playback cost data associated with the multimedia content usage indicator.

1 11. The system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia-on-demand usage message includes
2 purchase cost data associated with the multimedia content usage indicator.

1 12. The system of claim 1, further comprising a data switch coupled to the mass
2 storage device.

1 13. The system of claim 12, further comprising a plurality of broadband
2 communication links coupled to the data switch.

1 14. The system of claim 13, further comprising a plurality of information appliances,
2 each information appliance of the plurality of information appliances coupled to a
3 broadband communication link.

1 15. The system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia content item is selected from the
2 group consisting of a movie, a television program, a song, an album, an electronic book.

1 16. The system of claim 1, further comprising an input/output port coupled to the mass
2 storage device to communicate with a multimedia recording device.

1 17. A system for multimedia on demand, the system comprising:
2 a mass storage device, the mass storage device adapted to receive and store a
3 plurality of multimedia content items;
4 a processor, the processor coupled to the mass storage device; and
5 a memory, the memory coupled to the processor, the memory storing a multimedia-
6 on-demand data table and multimedia-on-demand instructions,
7 the multimedia-on-demand data table including a plurality of multimedia
8 content usage records, each multimedia content usage record adapted to include a
9 multimedia content usage indicator field to store a multimedia content usage
10 indicator, the multimedia content usage indicator associated with a multimedia
11 content item stored on the mass storage device, and
12 the multimedia-on-demand instructions to be executed the processor, the
13 multimedia-on-demand instructions including instructions to
14 automatically receive the plurality of multimedia content items, and
15 send a multimedia-on-demand usage message, the multimedia-on-
16 demand usage message to be based at least in part on the multimedia-on-
17 demand data table.

1 18. The system of claim 17, wherein each multimedia content usage record is adapted
2 to include a multimedia content identifier field to store a multimedia content identifier, the
3 multimedia content identifier to correspond to a multimedia content item of the plurality of
4 multimedia content items stored on the mass storage device.

1 19. The system of claim 17, wherein a multimedia content usage indicator is selected
2 from the group consisting of a content played indicator, a content purchased indicator, and
3 a content unused indicator.

1 20. The system of claim 17, wherein the multimedia content usage message is to be
2 sent to a multimedia-on-demand service provider.

1 21. The system of claim 17, wherein the multimedia-on-demand instructions include
2 instructions to receive a multimedia content item at a transmission rate that is less than a
3 real time transmission rate.

4 22. The system of claim 17, wherein the multimedia-on-demand instructions include
5 instructions to receive a multimedia content item at a transmission rate that is different
6 from a playback rate of the multimedia content item.

1 23. The system of claim 17, wherein the multimedia-on-demand instructions include
2 instructions to:

3 receive a portion of a multimedia content item, the portion of the multimedia
4 content item being less than the entirety of the multimedia content item, the portion of the
5 multimedia content item being received at a transmission rate, the transmission rate being
6 different from the playback rate; and

7 make a determination that continuous playback of the entirety of the multimedia
8 content item can begin prior to receipt of the entirety of the multimedia content item.

1 24. The system of claim 23, wherein the determination is based at least in part on the
2 transmission rate and the playback rate.

1 25. The system of claim 17, wherein the multimedia-on-demand instructions include
2 instructions to receive the plurality of multimedia content items from a multimedia-on-
3 demand service provider, the multimedia-on-demand service provider selected from the
4 group consisting of a direct broadcast satellite television service provider, a cable
5 television service provider, a terrestrial broadcast television service provider, a wireless
6 broadband data service provider, and a wired broadband data service provider.

1 26. A method for providing multimedia-on-demand, the method comprising:
2 automatically receiving a first multimedia content item;
3 storing the first multimedia content item;
4 modifying a data table to include a first multimedia content item identifier, the first
5 multimedia content item identifier corresponding to the first multimedia content item; and
6 sending a multimedia usage report, the multimedia usage report based at least in
7 part on the data table.

1 27. The method of claim 26, further comprising:
2 receiving a multimedia content item usage instruction related to the first
3 multimedia content item;
4 directing usage of the first multimedia content item based at least in part on the
5 multimedia content item usage instruction; and
6 updating the data table based at least in part on the multimedia content item usage
7 instruction.

1 28. The method of claim 27, wherein the multimedia content item usage instruction is
2 selected from the group consisting of an instruction to playback the multimedia content
3 item as part of a multimedia content item viewing transaction, an instruction to export the
4 multimedia content item as part of a multimedia content item purchase transaction, an
5 instruction to store the multimedia content item as part of a multimedia content item
6 deferred viewing transaction, and an instruction to allow use of the multimedia content
7 item as part of a multimedia content item licensing transaction.

1 29. The method of claim 27, wherein updating the data table based at least in part on
2 the multimedia content item usage instruction includes storing a first multimedia content
3 item usage indicator, the first multimedia content item usage indicator associated with the
4 first multimedia content identifier.

1 30. The method of claim 29, wherein the multimedia usage report is based at least in
2 part on the first multimedia content item usage indicator.

1 31. The method of claim 30, wherein the first multimedia content item usage indicator
2 is selected from the group consisting of a content played indicator, a content purchased
3 indicator, and a content licensed indicator.

1 32. The method of claim 26, further comprising:
2 automatically receiving a second multimedia content item, the second
3 multimedia content item to replace the first multimedia content item;
4 storing the second multimedia content item; and
5 updating the data table to include a second multimedia content item identifier,
6 the second multimedia content item identifier corresponding to the second
7 multimedia content item.

1 33. The method of claim 32, wherein storing the second multimedia content item
2 includes deleting the first multimedia content item.

1 34. The method of claim 32, wherein updating the data table to include a second
2 multimedia content item identifier includes deleting the first multimedia content identifier.

1 35. The method of claim 26, wherein automatically receiving a first multimedia content
2 item includes receiving the first multimedia content item at a transmission rate that is
3 different from a playback rate of the first multimedia content item.

1 36. A method for providing multimedia-on-demand, the method comprising:
2 automatically receiving a portion of a multimedia content item at a transmission
3 rate, the portion of the multimedia content item being less than the entirety of the
4 multimedia content item, the transmission rate being less than the playback rate of the
5 multimedia content item;
6 storing the portion of the multimedia content item; and
7 making a determination that continuous playback of the entirety of the multimedia
8 content item can begin prior to the receipt of the entirety of the multimedia content item.

1 37. The method of claim 36, further comprising:
2 modifying a data table to include a multimedia content item identifier, the
3 multimedia content item identifier corresponding to the multimedia content item; and
4 sending a multimedia usage report, the multimedia usage report based at least in
5 part on the data table.

1 38. A method for providing multimedia-on-demand, the method comprising:
2 automatically sending a plurality of multimedia content items and a plurality of
3 multimedia content item storage identifiers, wherein the automatically sending is based at
4 least in part on a subscriber profile, each multimedia content item of the plurality of
5 multimedia content items corresponding to a multimedia content item storage identifier of
6 the plurality of multimedia content item storage identifiers; and
7 receiving a multimedia content usage report, the multimedia content usage report
8 including a multimedia content item usage indicator, the multimedia content item usage
9 indicator corresponding to a multimedia content item of the plurality of multimedia content
10 items.

1 39. The method of claim 38, wherein each multimedia content item storage identifier
2 includes a multimedia content item identifier and a multimedia content item storage
3 position identifier.

1 40. The method of claim 39, wherein automatically sending a plurality of multimedia
2 content items and a plurality of multimedia content item storage identifiers includes:
3 sending a first multimedia content item of the plurality of multimedia content
4 items, the first multimedia content item having a first multimedia content item identifier
5 and a first multimedia content item storage position, and
6 subsequently sending a second multimedia content item of the plurality of
7 multimedia content items, the second multimedia content item having a second multimedia
8 content identifier and the first multimedia content item storage position.

1 41. A computer-readable medium storing a plurality of instructions to be executed by a
2 processor for multimedia on demand services, the plurality of instructions comprising
3 instructions to:

4 automatically send, based at least in part on a subscriber profile, a plurality of
5 multimedia content items and a plurality of multimedia content item storage identifiers,
6 each multimedia content item of the plurality of multimedia content items to correspond to
7 a multimedia content item storage identifier of the plurality of multimedia content item
8 storage identifiers; and

9 receive a multimedia content usage report, the multimedia content usage report
10 adapted to include a multimedia content item usage indicator, the multimedia content item
11 usage indicator adapted to correspond to a multimedia content item of the plurality of
12 multimedia content items.

1 42. The computer-readable medium of claim 41, wherein
2 each multimedia content item storage identifier includes a multimedia content item
3 identifier and a multimedia content item storage position identifier; and
4 the instructions to automatically send a plurality of multimedia content items and a
5 plurality of multimedia content item storage identifiers includes instructions to:
6 send a first multimedia content item of the plurality of multimedia content
7 items, the first multimedia content item having a first multimedia content item
8 identifier and a first multimedia content item storage position, and
9 subsequently send a second multimedia content item of the plurality of
10 multimedia content items, the second multimedia content item having a second
11 multimedia content identifier and the first multimedia content item storage position.